

What Ever Happened to Baby Doe?: The Transformation of Under-treatment to Over-treatment

Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2018

Noon–1:15 pm

10th Floor of the Comprehensive Cancer Center
Conference Room 10 C
Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center
Winston-Salem, N.C.

Program Overview

The Baby Doe controversy began with a celebrated case involving “The Hopkins Mongol baby,” an infant with Down Syndrome and duodenal atresia who was allowed to die of dehydration over a 15-day period. The ensuing “Baby Doe Regulations” resolved the problem of inappropriate under-treatment of infants with excellent prospects for on meaningful life. Both errors were driven by concerns other than the interests of the patient, and by misunderstandings about the law. The controversy led to the creation of hospital ethics committees, which transformed the process and outcomes for end-of-life decisions. The story encompasses the modern bioethics movement, and provides an example of how ethical reflection and analysis can lead to dramatic changes in the practice of medicine.

Who Should Participate

Nurses, doctors, social workers, clergy, psychologists and any interested health care professional.

Agenda

Noon–1:00 pm Introduction and Presentation
1:00–1:15 pm Meet the Speaker (optional)

Faculty



Norman Fost, MD, MPH
Professor, Pediatrics and Medical History &
Bioethics
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Norman Fost is a graduate of Princeton, Yale and Harvard and completed residency training in pediatrics at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. Since 1973 he has been at the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he has worked as a general pediatrician and Director of the Program in Bioethics, and led the Hospital Ethics Committee and IRB for 31 years. He was a member of President Clinton’s Health Care Task Force, the Princeton Board of Trustees, and Chair of the FDA Pediatric Ethics Committee. He has received four lifetime achievement awards, including MacLean prize from the University of Chicago, and has appeared on numerous television shows including Nightline, Frontline, Donahue, HBO Real Sports, ESPN Sports Center, Charlie Rose, Larry King Live, and Oprah, and appears in the movie “Bigger, Stronger, Faster.”

Exploring Ethics

2017–2018 Conference Series



Register online at northwestahec.org

Objectives

Upon completion of this knowledge-based program, participants should be able to:

- Describe the key elements of the Baby Doe Regulations.
- Identify why the Baby Doe Regulations do not apply to patients, doctors, hospitals or parents.
- Recognize that many doctors have been liable for withholding or withdrawing life-sustaining treatment.

Registration

Registration for this free course can be completed online or on-site. You are welcome to bring your own lunch.

Note—Registering for and attending this program authorizes Northwest AHEC/Wake Forest School of medicine to take pictures to be used for the Center’s publications, website (including social media sites) and presentations.

Credit

1.0 Contact Hours from Northwest AHEC

Nurses: This educational activity can be applied toward your continuing competence plan for maintaining your current licensure with the North Carolina Board of Nursing.

This program does not provide specific NBCC Credits. However, per LPC licensure guidelines, you may submit up to 15 contact hours of continuing education by attending programs by affiliates of the National Area Health Education Center Organization (NAO). Northwest AHEC is a member of the NAO.